

# The Newsletter

JULY AND AUGUST 2016

## FROM THE PASTOR

### From Pastor Leah...

Happy Summer! My family and I have enjoyed seeing how summer unfolds in these parts. We have splashed in the pool, spied on wildlife in Overpeck Park, and enjoyed the hospitality this church's worship service provides in its cooler, relaxed summer setting. May this summer bring each household some needed Sabbath rest as we enjoy God's creation, find more time for family, and discover something holy in getting bored.

Even as we enjoy summer, we stay engaged in the conflicts of the world, and mourn the violence that has happened in Orlando, in Istanbul and around the world, we hold fast to the peace Jesus promises. As we seek to be disciples of him, we look to follow his simple guidance that in all we do, holding the priorities of loving God, and loving our neighbor as ourselves. We have sent a statement of shared grief to our new Muslim friends at the Turkish Community Center who shared the Ramadan meal with us last month.

I will be traveling July 16-July 23 to attend a conference called "The Art of Transitional Ministry" at Zephyr Hills

Conference Center at Lake Tahoe (bonus points for church conferences set in places that echo God's grandeur in creation). I look forward to exploring best how to walk with this church as we welcome the Holy Spirit's movement in this interim time. On July 17, please welcome Miles Goff as your guest preacher. Miles is a recent graduate of Union Theological Seminary, serves as a Community Minister at Judson Memorial Church, and is seeking ordination in the American Baptist Church. A self-described "Greek geek," Miles also gets excited about nature and grassroots fundraising. Miles identifies as a "transguy" so if you have questions about transgender identity, he is comfortable to be a resource for you.

By the end of the summer, I hope to have as many meaningful connections getting to know members of this congregation as there are people! So I welcome a visit to my office, or lunch or coffee together, or a summer walk with you. I am happy to meet you at your home or office, or at your family's music concerts or sports games.



**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN LEONIA**  
**181 FORT LEE ROAD, P.O. BOX 448**  
**LEONIA, NJ 07605**  
**TEL. 201 944-1358**  
**FAX. 201 944-6812**  
**WEBSITE [WWW.LEONIAPRES.ORG](http://WWW.LEONIAPRES.ORG)**

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY 8-10,**  
**TUESDAY & THURSDAY 1-5:30, FRIDAY 8-12**

Listening to your lives and how God is at work within them greatly enhances my preaching choices and helps me shape our witness as a church.

Faithfully yours,

Leah

-Rev. Leah Fowler, Interim Pastor



# THE NEWSLETTER

## SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

We will worship this summer in the Community Room, which is cool, since the Sanctuary is not air-conditioned. Worship remains at 10:30 am Sundays. During the summer months, we will include during the prayers names of people who have been killed by gun violence. If you have names you wish to share, please email Pastor Leah at [pastorleonia@gmail.com](mailto:pastorleonia@gmail.com).

**Sunday July 10: Communion Sunday Elder Fumio Ito, Liturgist**

♦Commissioning of Manangwa Nyirongo and Mwai Makoko as Triennium Youth Conference Delegates



**Sunday July 17: Elder Jack Peters, Liturgist** Guest Preacher: Miles Goff

**Sunday July 24: Elder Pete Shanno, Liturgist** (Pastor Leah back from Continuing Ed)

**Sunday July 31: Elder Betsy Voreacos, Liturgist** Guided Meditation

**Sunday August 7: Elder Jane Wilson, Liturgist**

**Sunday August 14: Worship with Communion; Elder Philip Wilson, Liturgist**

**Sunday August 21: Elder Christine Banas, Liturgist**

**Sunday August 28: Elder Joe VanDeWeert, Liturgist**

Blessing of the Animals- this year the Blessing of the Animals will take place at our morning worship, and it will be on the grassy lawn of the parking circle of our church. It is a great time to invite friends and neighbors, and their pets! There will be chairs in rows but you are also welcome to bring a quilt and spread out (with your pet) on the lawn.



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### USHERS:

July 10	Susan Shanno & Pete Shanno
July 17	Roberta Toolen
July 24	Suzanna Broffman
July 31	Roberta Toolen
August 7	Jane Wilson & Susan Dindial
August 14	Roberta Toolen
August 21	Judith Nyirongo & Karen Peters
August 28	Roberta Toolen & Ginny Brown
September 4	Susan Shanno & Pete Shanno

### OFFERING COUNTERS:

July 3	Ginny Brown & David Voreacos
July 10,	Fumio Ito & Jonathan Phillips
July 17	Anne Stebbins & Pete Shanno
July 24	Hyung Shim & Diane Borer
July 31	Anne Stebbins & David Voreacos
August 7	Ginny Brown & Jonathan Phillips
August 14	Diane Borer & Pete Shanno

**Pledge Update:** We are slightly below our target income from household pledges for this point of the year. If you have pledged, please do not forget about your church during your summer travels! If you have not pledged and would like to give a commitment to the church, we are happy to speak with you. No matter how small or big your gift is, God can work through you and your offering to build a church that dares to live faithfully into Christ's call. Please speak with Pastor Leah or with our Church Secretary, Pat Major, to find out how you can support the congregation.

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Can you help one day at **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY** in Paterson? Our church is volunteering on July 8 and July 23 and we need loving hearts and hands. Please speak with Karen Klingner or Pete Shanno if you would like to volunteer to help build a home. No skills are required, but you must be 16 or older and in good health.

*Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.*



## DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

The Presbyterian Church (USA) held its General Assembly June 18-25 in Portland, OR. General Assembly happens every two years, with each Presbytery sending ministers (Teaching Elders) and lay leaders (Ruling Elders) to see how the Holy Spirit moves in our changing church. Here are some highlights about GA that you should know:

- It was a good year for diversity. For the first time, our elected moderator team was both women: Rev. Jan Edmiston, who is white, and Rev. Denise Anderson, are Co-Moderators. Rev. J. Herbert Nelson, who is African-American and most recently led The Presbyterian Mission Agency, was elected Stated Clerk.
- The assembly voted to add The Confession of Belhar to *The Book of Confessions*. This confession comes out of the context of apartheid South Africa, and speaks to the church's call to bring unity, justice and reconciliation to transform a society broken by racism. Our church will explore this confession more in the fall in worship.
- The assembly rejected so-called "conversion therapies" for LGBTQ persons and overwhelmingly voted to express regret for the ways LGBTQ people have been made by past church actions to feel they stand outside the grace of God, and challenged all Presbyterians to reflect upon, and repent of, the ways we have mistreated one another, and to seek reconciliation.
- GA passed an overture that calls for the US Government to acknowledge its role in the killing of nearly 300 Korean civilians near the village of No Gun Ri in July 1950. It also instructs the Stated Clerk to communicate to the president and members of Congress the denomination's desire that the nation consider compensating the surviving victims and the families of the victims.

More can be read about General Assembly at [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org).

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### Member Profile: EULALIA CABRERA



Our family (my parents, sister and myself) left Cuba for Madrid in 1964. After 7 months, we were accepted as legal residents of the US and arrived in Perth Amboy, NJ to join my paternal aunt who had lived there since the 1950's. Adjustment to the new life was difficult but little by little we made it through. During this time, the Perth Amboy Presbyterian Church welcomed us and we were able to attend their small Spanish language service on Sunday evenings. We were invited to many "pot luck" dinners and loved every one of them. The food was new to us, but very tasty. In every way the Perth Amboy church was a God-send for us. Soon my sister and I became members, and because eventually the Spanish service ended, my parents joined the local Spanish Baptist Church.

Fast forward - After living in New York City for seven years, I moved back to New Jersey where my wife Bonnie and I bought a house in North Bergen. I now find myself, having retired from my job as a psychologist, taking advantage of my, well, untethered time. I so enjoy retirement. I spend time with family and friends (some old, some new), jog around the park, walk Coco (our dog), read, and allow my mind to wander. All these are luxuries I never knew before.

I found the Leonia Presbyterian Church on a list of gay-friendly churches in NJ. Leonia Presbyterian has been that and more. Since joining, and having been elected an elder, I've experienced the Leonia Presbyterian Church as an active, living church. It was through Leonia Presbyterian that I learned about First Friends, an organization where I currently volunteer, that works to support detained immigrants through various services. The Leonia Church moves forward; it is inclusive; it helps all to find answers to sometimes hard questions. In short, it serves in Jesus' name. This is the way I'd like to see it continue to grow.

Blessings and peace,

Eulalia

**August 12th (Fri) 8:00 PM**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Friday JAZZ JAM SESSION! Sponsored**

**by the Presbyterian Church in Leonia**

**Join us for this COOL event in Air Con'd room!**

**Audience or Player, everyone is welcome!**

**\* To Player: Bring instruments and play with pro.**

**Any level of player is welcome!**

**Please bring tunes from "The Real Book".**

**\* No fee but small donation is accepted to cover utility cost.**

**WHEN: August 12th, 2016 (Friday)**

**8:00 pm – 10:00 pm**

**Next Session: September 9th, 2016 (Fri), same time.**

**Program will continue once a month,**

**Every second Friday night.**

**WHERE: The Presbyterian Church in Leonia**

**181 Fort Lee Rd. Leonia, NJ 07605**

**(Between Broad Ave. & Grand Ave.)**

**Led by: Foreign Exchange**

**Michael Hinton (Piano)**

**Yoshi Koyama (Sax)**

**April Johnson (Keyboard)**

**Yoshi Hosuke (Bass)**

**Max Wang & Nick Iannantuano (Drums/Percussion)**

**Mike Ito (Guitar)**

**Please contact the following for any question.**

**Church: [secretaryleonia@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryleonia@gmail.com) or 201-944-1358**

**Coordinator, Mike Ito: [mike.ito@verizon.net](mailto:mike.ito@verizon.net) or 201-679-6616**

**Church website: [www.leoniapres.org](http://www.leoniapres.org)**

# Questions, Calling, Community, and Campfire!



Presbyterian Church in Leonia Fall Retreat  
September 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> 2016

Presbyterian Camp & Conference Center  
Johnsonburg, NJ

Come and worship in a different place, in a different way, with the same church family! Our program begins at 9:00 a.m. Saturday at Camp Johnsonburg. The day includes intergenerational time together for spiritual and playful reflection about transitions in our church and our lives, as well as time on your own. There will be a planned program with children's activities, lunch, free time, dinner, and a campfire. Those coming for only the day can choose to stay for the campfire or head home earlier as needed-- or your family can stay the night in shared lodges and join in worship and communion under the trees Sunday morning. During free time there will be hiking, boating, archery, napping, games, etc.

**Please register as soon as possible we need registrations by July 31st!  
A deposit of \$35 is needed to hold your spot!**

# REGISTRATION FORM

## All-Church Retreat

## September 10-11 2016

**SEND/GIVE TO:** Lisa VanDeWeert  
88 Belle Ave  
Maywood, NJ 07607

\_\_\_\_\_ **Entire Weekend**    \_\_\_\_\_ **Saturday (breakfast, lunch & dinner)**

**ADULTS:**                      Weekend, \$110.00  
Saturday only, \$50.00

CHILDREN                      Weekend, \$80.00  
4-11 years old:    Saturday only, \$30.00

Financial help is available. Any family or individual who needs assistance, please speak with Leah Fowler or Lisa VanDeWeert. We value your participation in this retreat and hope you will join us. If you wish to donate extra to help others come on retreat it would be greatly appreciated.

Adult(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Children/  
Youth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

**Enclosed: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Need Transportation  
\_\_\_\_\_ Can give others a ride

**PLEASE NOTE:** Final payment is due by **July 31st**. Because of contract commitments we must make to Johnsonburg, there can be **NO REFUNDS after July 31st**. If you wish to contribute an additional amount in support of families who need assistance, please note your intention on this form.

*THE NEWSLETTER*

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P.O. Box 448  
181 Fort Lee Road  
Leonia, NJ 07605

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**BIRTHDAYS IN JULY AND AUGUST!!**

**JULY**

- 10 Hwan Hee Kang
- 12 Hoshiko Ito
- 14 Steve Borer
- 19 Laurie Johnson
- 21 Victoria Li
- 22 Leo Noah Shim
- 25 Madison Rae Richter
- 28 Timothy Carriel

**AUGUST**

- 2 Susan Shanno
- 3 Roberta Marie Toolen
- 9 Robert Leicht
- 14 Christian George Klingner
- 21 Christopher Hunt
- 25 Rawn Sahai
- 26 Marlon Sahai  
Joo Kyung, Sung
- 29 Mercedes Williams
- 30 Sharon Clarke

